

2012 Summit County Trail & Greenway Plan:

Infusion of new ideas and energy to continue funding for trails and greenspace



Summit County Trail & Greenway Plan



MetroParks
SERVING SUMMIT COUNTY



**OHIO
GREENWAYS**

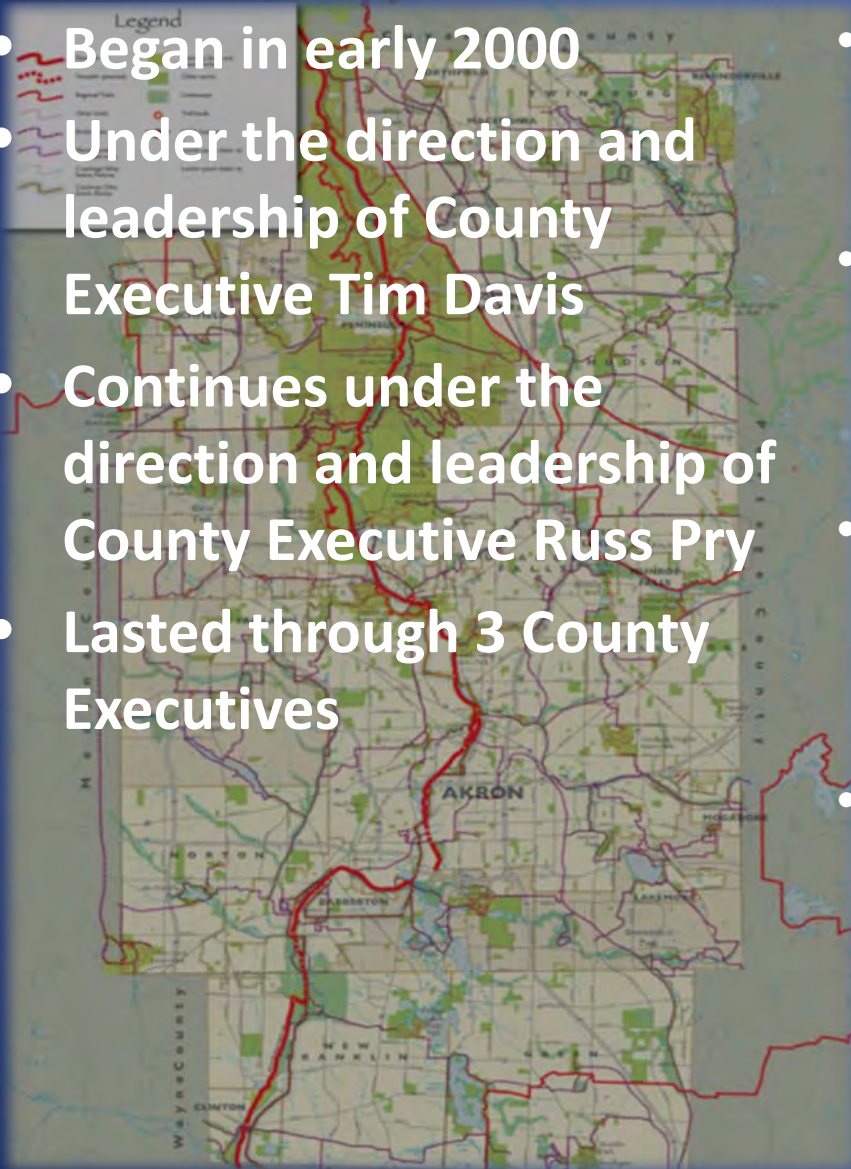


Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition

History of Trail & Greenway Plan

- **Began in early 2000**
- **Under the direction and leadership of County Executive Tim Davis**
- **Continues under the direction and leadership of County Executive Russ Pry**
- **Lasted through 3 County Executives**

- Funding originally identified to help complete the Towpath Trail through Summit County through the County's general operating fund
- Continued outreach to County Council members through invitations to ribbon cuttings, trail dedications and keeping them updated and informed on the development of the projects
- Annual update and presentation to County Council since 2001 of trail and greenspace projects and development and the work left to be done in order to continue funding
- Working with local community leaders and elected officials to identify trail funding opportunities and communicating through them to provide updates to their county council representative as to the importance of the funding



Summit County Trail & Greenway Plan

- Planning efforts included visiting each community in Summit County, conveying the vision of a countywide trail and greenspace plan and identifying potential and current trails for connection not only within their borders but to adjoining communities
- Held numerous public meetings to obtain resident buy in and identify potential connections and address challenges.
- Based on resident and public official input, map was created representing connections within and outside Summit County community borders



Summit County Trail & Greenway Plan

- Components of the Plan were Organized by:
 - Defining the county geographically based on watersheds
- Plan Identifies:
 - Key trail & greenway linkages within each watershed
 - Regional attractions
- Resources Represent:
 - Unique natural resources
 - Important transportation corridors



Significant accomplishments since 2002

- 35 miles of trails and 330 acres of greenspace
- 28 Projects in planning
- Grants awarded \$1,032,650.00 for trail and greenspace projects, matched \$11,211,464.00 and leveraged \$12,684,079.00
- 41 Miles of Towpath Trail completed in Summit County



While we have achieved significant accomplishments, much work remains...

New Ideas and Energy to continue to receive funding....

- In 2010, intentionally took a reduction in funding in order to continue to receive annual support from County's general operating fund
- Monthly Steering Committee meetings – consisting of key stakeholders
- Quarterly Advisory Committee meetings – consisting of partners throughout Summit County – key is to engage and involve!
- Pro-active technical assistance to area communities
- Re-design of Trail and Greenway map
- Addition of water trails



Trail and Greenspace/health and wellness

- Obvious (or not so obvious) connection to trails and greenspace and health and wellness.
- Presents opportunities to help fund trail and greenspace development efforts
- Engage community leaders in the health care industry to support your trail and greenspace efforts



Healthy Steps

Founding partner:

Current Supporting
Partners:



Healthy Steps – Towpath Tuesdays

- Participants formed teams to join together to help get their steps
- Weekly hikes along the Towpath Trail or other trails for participants to enjoy while getting their steps
- Prizes awarded to top 3 walkers and overall highest walker
- Awards and medals given to top 3 overall highest stepping teams



Healthy Steps

- Weekly e-newsletters are sent out to the participants with healthy tips including walking and nutrition
- We conduct surveys to gather data on the results, including decreased absenteeism, weight and nutrition goals achieved, establishing solid and continuing exercising goals and provide this feedback to the sponsors



2012 Summit County Trail & Greenway Coordinator Activities

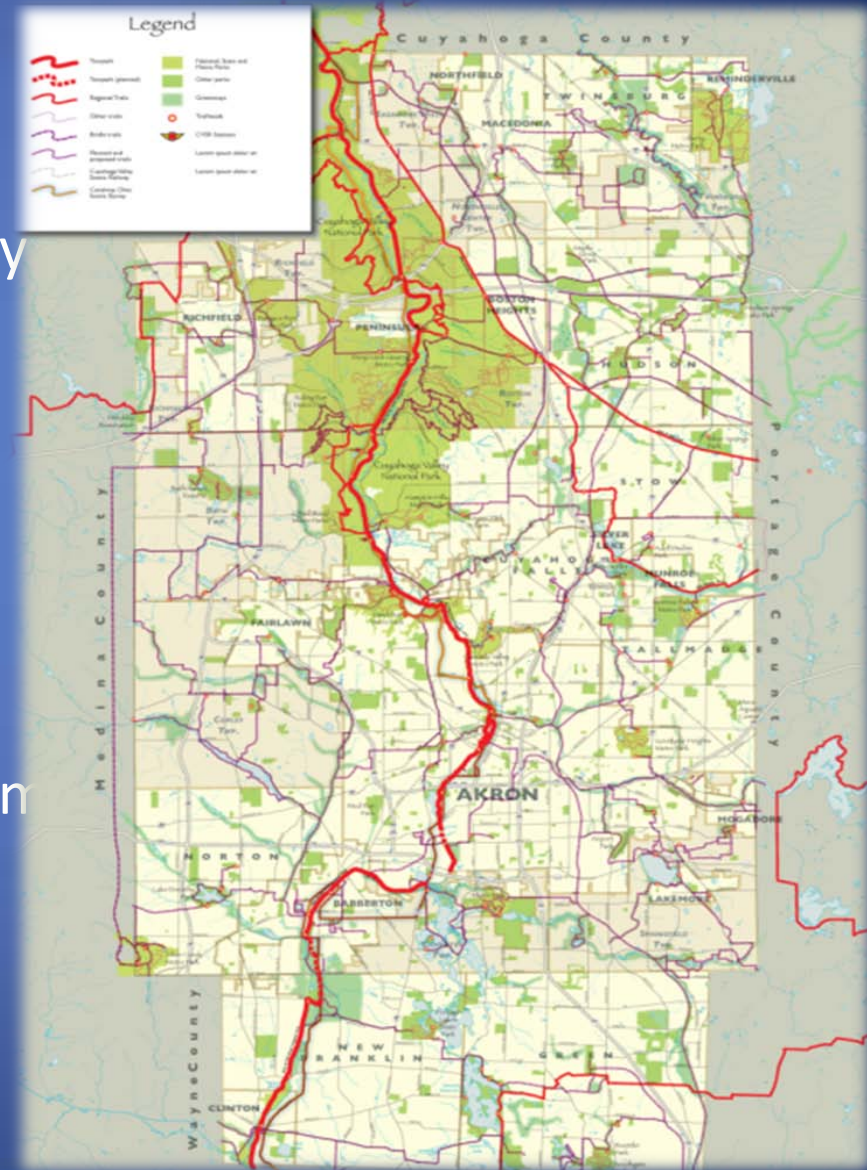
- Administration of the grant program
- Technical assistance to trail and greenway projects including:
 - Akron Secondary Trail – from City of Hudson to downtown Akron;
 - Wolf Creek/Pigeon Creek Trail & Greenway – from City of Barberton to City of Fairlawn;
 - Lake Dorothy Connector Trail – from City of Norton to City of Wadsworth;
 - Connector trail from Village of Boston Heights to City of Hudson
 - Veterans trail continuing from City of Hudson to Towpath Trail in downtown Akron;
 - Connector trail from Springfield Township to Village of Lakemore;
 - City of Tallmadge Thoroughfare plan connecting to Freedom Trail.
- Coordination of the Steering and Advisory Committee.



Summit County Trail & Greenway 2012

Goals and Work Plan

- Set goals and objectives for what you'd like to achieve
- Re-design of the trail and greenway map
- 2012 Summit County Trail and Greenway Summit
- Towpath Trail Celebration
- Trail and greenway technical assistance
- Administration of the grant program
- Coordination of the Steering and Advisory Committee



Summit County Trail & Greenway Plan

- For every \$1 of county money, this program has leveraged \$12 of federal, state and local matching dollars.
- Leveraged \$12,600,000.
- 35 miles of trails and 330 acres of greenspace.
- Creating a legacy for future generations.

